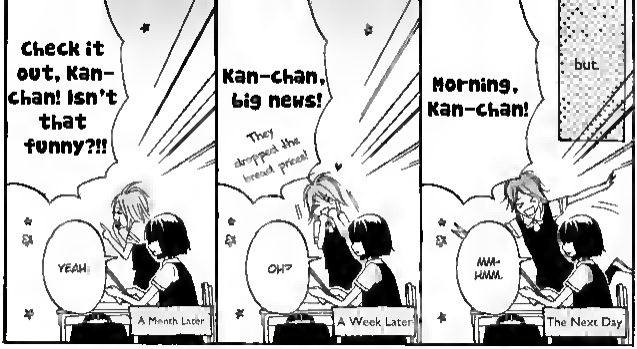
Lililicious~may its fragrance encompass you
lilicious@hanmail.net, http://lililicious.net

Every summer, I remember you.
...KAN-CHAN?
I never thought I'd see you again When I saw you standing there, my heart began to pound
WOW, IT REALLY IS YOU!
Memory Box
Kwon Aki
Ai...?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S BEEN, WHAT, SIX YEARS NOW? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE JUNIOR HIGH!
You haven't changed at all!
Oh
I CAME BACK HERE AFTER JUNIOR COLLEGE...
MY BOYFRIEND DUMPED ME, TOO...
I had no reason to stay there.
YEAH, BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I heard you moved to Tokyo...
OH...
SORRY TO HEAR IT
OH, DON'T APOLOGIZE! I'm fine.
IT'S NICE TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN
Ai was my only friend back in junior high.

We met in eighth grade.
CLACK
Oh
MORNING, KANDA-SAN!
MORNING!
She was also my girlfriend.
I didn't have any real friends.
I didn't fit into the school's groove at all
Ugh, I'm tired.
SKEPK
WHY DO GIRLS DO EVERYTHING IN GROUPS?
So anyway...
At the time, I couldn't stand to be tied down
THIS PLACE IS SO BORING AND STIFLING. I WISH IT DIDN'T EXIST AT ALL
It's like being shut away in a box.
KANDA-CHAN!

MORNING.
HM? IS SHE IN MY CLASS THIS YEAR OR SOMETHING?
MORNING.
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME, HUH?
WE WERE IN THE SAME GROUP IN GYM CLASS THE OTHER DAY!
I'M KAWAGUCHI AI
I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
YOU'D BETTER REMEMBER ME NEXT TIME KANDA TAMAKI-CHAN!
My first impression of Ai...
HEY, CAN I CALL YOU KAN-CHAN?
UH-HUH
was that she was a pain in the butt
I had no intention of having anything to do with her.
WHAT THE HECK...? SHE KINDA SEEMS LIKE A SMOOTH TALKER
MAYBE SHE'S GOING TO TRY AND GET ME TO RUN ERRANDS FOR HER OR SOMETHING...?
Ugh...


Check it out, Kan-chan! Isn't that funny?!!
YEAH.
A Month Later
Kan-chan, big news!
They dropped the bread price!
OH?
A Week Later
Morning, Kan-chan!
but.
MM-HMM.
The Next Day

HUH? WHY WOULD I?
IT'S JUST AS FUN AS ANYTHING ELSE Y'KNOW?
..HEY,
DON'T YOU GET BORED HANGING AROUND ME? I don't respond much to anything.

I LIKE YOUR STYLE, KAN-CHAN.
You're like aloof or something
YOU DON'T MAKE NICE WITH THE BOYS OR THE TEACHERS
YOU DON'T PUT OTHER PEOPLE DOWN THE WAY THE OTHER GIRLS DO AND YOU NEVER WHINE EITHER. I THINK YOU'RE COOL.
So I like spending time with you.
I really admire you!
Oh. I see...
What an odd girl.

But
I don't mind her so much
SUMMER BREAK IS ALMOST HERE!
buzzzz
buzzzz
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M IN LOVE WITH AN UPPER-CLASSMAN ON THE TEAM.
ON OUR SUMMER TRAINING TRIP, I'M GONNA GO FOR IT
THAT SEEMS TO BE THE THING TO DO RIGHT NOW
I guess we're at an age when we want boy-friends?
OH REALLY? GOOD LUCK!
HUH?
HEY,
WOULD YOU LET ME PRACTICE ON YOU?
AI'S PRETTY CUTE, THOUGH
I DOUBT SHE'LL HAVE ANY TROUBLE LANDING THAT GUY
you know
PRACTICE TELLING HIM HOW I FEEL...
WHAT, ♪?

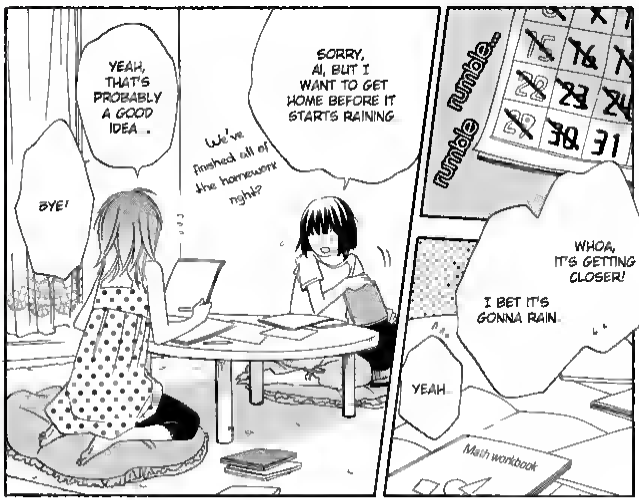
I LOVE YOU! PLEASE GO OUT WITH...
I--
WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING ?
It's hot out here.
BUZZZZ...
BUZZZZ...
I--
I LIKE YOU.
I LIKE YOU!
I...I LOVE YOU!
Before I knew it,
OH, GEEZ! DON'T STARTLE ME LIKE THAT!
I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT HE'LL SAY.
Is this what it's like to have a friend?
OKAY.
HUH?
It's like having a bit of company and cheer inside my box.

DING DONG...
I was afraid of having her snatched away from me.
Somewhere in my heart,
HE SAID NO.
I was relieved that he turned her down
WHAT WAS THAT? I SUCK AT THIS
...KAN-CHAN,
SOMEONE BETTER WILL COME ALONG!
D-- DON'T WORRY,
THERE ARE PLENTY OF GUYS OUT THERE-- AS MANY AS THERE ARE STARS IN THE SKY

WILL YOU BE MY BOYFRIEND OVER SUMMER BREAK?
I HAVE TOO MUCH FREE TIME ON MY HANDS NOW THAT I WON'T BE GOING ON DATES WITH HIM
rumble rumble....
rattle.. rattle rattle...
HM?
THE WIND'S PICKED UP.
!!!
The other couples all reacted when they saw us
Ahaha.
IT WAS FUN, THOUGH!
WE HELD HANDS WENT ON BOAT RIDES
YOU REALLY CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE WHEN YOU SUGGESTED THAT!
I'd never imagined Sakaki would be the one to ask me first!

rumble
rumble...
AT THE END OF SUMMER BREAK THAT YEAR
LIKE WE DID...

MAYBE WE'LL GET AN EVENING SHOWER.


SORRY, AI, BUT I WANT TO GET HOME BEFORE IT STARTS RAINING.
We've finished all of the homework right?
YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA.
BYE!
rumble rumble...
WHOA, IT'S GETTING CLOSER!
I BET IT'S GONNA RAIN.
YEAH.
Math workbook

KAN-CHAN!
THIS IS... YOUR LAST DAY AS MY "BOYFRIEND," RIGHT?
COULD I MAKE ONE LAST REQUEST?
HUH? SURE, GO AHEAD?
we're still going to be a couple tomorrow..
I'LL FEEL BETTER IF WE JUST SAY "SEE YOU TOMORROW" AS USUAL
Like
An ambiguous farewell
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

rumble...
I can't get my legs to move
Don't look at me like that.
WE'RE JUST GOING BACK TO BEING FRIENDS THIS SHOULDN'T BE A BIG DEAL.
rumble rumble...
HEY, KAN-CHAN?
GASP
THERE MAY BE PLENTY OF STARS IN THE SKY,
BUT I'M DOWN HERE ON EARTH...
SO MAYBE I HAVE TO WAIT FOR ONE TO FALL.

"Don't worry, there are plenty of guys out there--
as many as there are stars in the sky."

My irresponsible words. She's been thinking about them all through break
pitter..
pitter patter
patter..
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN NOW
I'LL GET YOU AN UMBRELLA. HOLD ON!
ZSSHH
Everyone knows that even though there are plenty of stars in the sky, sometimes one in particular is the only one that matters. That goes for me, too...
Ai...

Ai is the only one for me
EVEN IF YOUR STAR NEVER COMES DOWN—
DON'T WORRY 'CAUSE YOU HAVE ME HERE ON EARTH WITH YOU
That was when I realized
HUH—?
that I was in a box labeled "Ai"
scrape

And then we were reunited.
YOU WERE SO COOL THAT DAY!
C-- CUT IT OUT!
BUT Y'KNOW, WHAT YOU SAID-- IT'S STUCK WITH ME ALL THIS TIME
I SHOULDN'T TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD, RIGHT...?
Huh?

I put a little

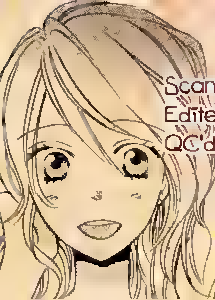
distance between us,

because I was scared to know her answer

SSHH...

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR YEARS...
THAT YOU'VE BEEN MY STAR ALL ALONG, KAN-CHAN
I've tried to be with other people but I've never felt that way about them
?!
Every summer I remember...

And it looks
like I'm about to
get some company and
cheer in my box again...



Memory box

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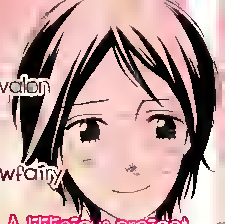

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つぼみ
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vol.4
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